

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

- 1-20. (Cancelled)
21. (New) A sole for an article of footwear, the sole comprising:
a load distribution plate disposed in a heel region of the sole;
a first element for determining at least a cushioning property of the sole during a first ground contact with the heel region, the first element disposed proximate the load distribution plate; and
a second element disposed proximate the load distribution plate, the second element and the first element configured and arranged to define a substantially sector-shaped gap therebetween.
22. (New) The sole of claim 21, further comprising a reinforcing element disposed in the sector-shaped gap.
23. (New) The sole of claim 21, wherein the first element is generally located in at least one of a lateral portion and a rear portion of the heel region.
24. (New) The sole of claim 21, wherein the first element is substantially sector-shaped.
25. (New) The sole of claim 21, wherein the second element brings a wearer's foot into a neutral position after the first ground contact.
26. (New) The sole of claim 21, wherein the second element has a greater hardness than the first element.
27. (New) The sole of claim 21, wherein the second element is substantially sector-shaped.
28. (New) The sole of claim 21, wherein the second element is generally located in at least one of a medial portion and a forward portion of the heel region.

29. (New) The sole of claim 21, wherein the second element comprises:
a medial guidance element at least partially located in a medial rear portion of the heel region; and
a lateral guidance element at least partially located in a lateral forward portion of the heel region.
30. (New) The sole of claim 21 further comprising a third element disposed proximate the load distribution plate for avoiding excessive pronation of the wearer's foot during transition to a rolling-off phase of a step cycle.
31. (New) The sole of claim 30, wherein the third element is substantially sector-shaped.
32. (New) The sole of claim 30, wherein the third element is at least partially located in a medial forward quadrant of the heel region.
33. (New) The sole of claim 30, wherein hardness of at least one of the second element and the third element varies within the at least one of the second element and the third element.
34. (New) The sole of claim 30, wherein at least one of the second element and the third element extends beyond an edge of the load distribution plate.
35. (New) The sole of claim 21, wherein the load distribution plate has a generally recumbent U-shaped cross-sectional profile and receives in an interior region thereof at least a portion of one of the first element and the at least one second element.
36. (New) The sole of claim 21 further comprising an outsole at least partially disposed below the first element and the at least one second element.
37. (New) An article of footwear comprising an upper and a sole, the sole comprising:
a load distribution plate disposed in a heel region of the sole;
a first element for determining at least a cushioning property of the sole during a first ground contact with the heel region, the first element disposed proximate the load distribution plate; and

a second element disposed proximate the load distribution plate, the second element and the first element configured and arranged to define a substantially sector-shaped gap therebetween.

38. (New) The article of footwear of claim 37, further comprising a reinforcing element disposed in the sector-shaped gap.
39. (New) The article of footwear of claim 37, wherein the first element is generally located in at least one of a lateral portion and a rear portion of the heel region.
40. (New) The article of footwear of claim 37, wherein the second element is generally located in at least one of a medial portion and a forward portion of the heel region.
41. (New) The article of footwear of claim 37, wherein the second element comprises:
 - a medial guidance element at least partially located in a medial rear portion of the heel region; and
 - a lateral guidance element at least partially located in a lateral forward portion of the heel region.
42. (New) The article of footwear of claim 37, wherein the sole further comprises a third element disposed proximate the load distribution plate and at least partially located in a medial forward quadrant of the heel region.
43. (New) The article of footwear of claim 42, wherein at least one of the first element, the second element, and the third element is substantially sector-shaped.